

111TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 4339

To encourage students from the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to become civically engaged through local and Federal government fellowships.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 16, 2009

Mr. SABLAN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the  
Committee on Natural Resources

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## A BILL

To encourage students from the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to become civically engaged through local and Federal government fellowships.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be referred to as the “Dr. Rita Hocog  
5       Inos Fellowship Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS FROM THE**  
2 **COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MAR-**  
3 **IANA ISLANDS.**

4 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM.—

5 The Secretary of the Interior shall establish a program,  
6 to be known as the “Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Fellowship Pro-  
7 gram”, to award local and Federal government fellowships  
8 to qualified students from the Commonwealth of the  
9 Northern Mariana Islands.

10 (b) FELLOWSHIPS.—Under the Dr. Rita Hocog Inos  
11 Fellowship Program:

12 (1) TYPES.—The Secretary may award to a  
13 qualified student one or both of the following fellow-  
14 ships:

15 (A) LOCAL GOVERNMENT FELLOWSHIP.—

16 A local government fellowship, under which the  
17 Secretary shall assign the qualified student to  
18 an internship in an agency or entity of the  
19 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Is-  
20 lands.

21 (B) FEDERAL FELLOWSHIP.—A Federal  
22 fellowship, under which the Secretary shall as-  
23 sign the qualified student to an internship in—

24 (i) an Executive agency (as defined in  
25 section 105 of title 5, United States Code);  
26 or

1 (ii) the office of a Representative or  
2 Senator in, or a Delegate or Resident  
3 Commissioner to, the Congress.

4 (2) FELLOWSHIP TERM.—The term of a fellow-  
5 ship shall be an academic semester or a summer, as  
6 designated by the Secretary.

7 (3) AMOUNT OF FELLOWSHIP.—

8 (A) IN GENERAL.—A fellow may receive ei-  
9 ther a stipend or academic credit toward grad-  
10 uation for participating in an internship.

11 (B) STIPEND.—The stipend for partici-  
12 pating in an internship shall be:

13 (i) \$6,000 for participating under an  
14 academic semester fellowship.

15 (ii) \$4,000 for participating under a  
16 summer fellowship.

17 (C) FISCAL YEARS AFTER 2010.—In the  
18 case of any fiscal year beginning after Sep-  
19 tember 30, 2010, each dollar amount in sub-  
20 paragraph (B) shall be such dollar amount in  
21 effect for the preceding fiscal year, increased by  
22 the sum of—

23 (i) the percentage of the dollar  
24 amount in effect for such preceding fiscal

1 year that is equal to the percentage (if  
2 any) by which—

3 (I) the Consumer Price Index for  
4 the most recent calendar year ending  
5 prior to the beginning of the fiscal  
6 year, exceeds

7 (II) the Consumer Price Index  
8 for the next previous calendar year;  
9 plus

10 (ii) one percent of the dollar amount  
11 in effect for such previous year.

12 (4) TRAVEL STIPEND.—The Secretary may pro-  
13 vide to a fellow a travel stipend of not more than  
14 \$1,500 for each fellowship term, based on the dis-  
15 tance of the fellow from the internship site.

16 (c) QUALIFIED STUDENT.—For purposes of this sec-  
17 tion, the term “qualified student” means a student who  
18 is—

19 (1) a citizen of the United States;

20 (2) domiciled in the Commonwealth of the  
21 Northern Mariana Islands; and

22 (3) enrolled in a degree or certificate program  
23 at an institution of higher education (as defined in  
24 section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965  
25 (20 U.S.C. 1001)).

1 (d) APPLICATION AND SELECTION.—Under the Dr.  
2 Rita Hocog Inos Fellowship Program:

3 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall develop  
4 and administer an application and selection process  
5 for awarding a fellowship.

6 (2) PRIORITY FOR SELECTION OF STUDENTS.—

7 (A) LOCAL GOVERNMENT FELLOWSHIP.—

8 In awarding a local government fellowship, the  
9 Secretary shall give priority to a qualified stu-  
10 dent who has completed a Federal fellowship.

11 (B) FEDERAL FELLOWSHIP.—In awarding  
12 a Federal fellowship, the Secretary shall give  
13 priority to a qualified student who has com-  
14 pleted a local government fellowship.

15 (3) SELECTION OF AGENCIES.—The Secretary  
16 shall not assign a fellow to an internship in an agen-  
17 cy or office that does not agree to provide for the  
18 fellow to engage in mandatory activities, including—

19 (A) activities encouraging professional de-  
20 velopment;

21 (B) job skill training;

22 (C) networking activities; and

23 (D) community service activities.

1           (4) LIMITATION ON NUMBER OF FELLOWSHIPS  
2       AWARDED TO EACH STUDENT.—A qualified student  
3       shall be awarded no more than—

4                       (A) one local government fellowship; and

5                       (B) one Federal fellowship.

6       (e) REPORTING.—The Secretary shall submit to Con-  
7       gress, not later than 3 years after the date of enactment  
8       of this Act, a report on the Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Fellow-  
9       ship Program. The report shall include information on—

10                   (1) the use of funds appropriated for the pur-  
11       pose of carrying out the Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Fel-  
12       lowship Program; and

13                   (2) barriers to participation in the Dr. Rita  
14       Hocog Inos Fellowship Program.

15       (f) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section:

16                   (1) CONSUMER PRICE INDEX.—The term “Con-  
17       sumer Price Index” means the Consumer Price  
18       Index for All Urban Consumers published by the De-  
19       partment of Labor.

20                   (2) FELLOW.—The term “fellow” means a stu-  
21       dent who has been awarded a fellowship under the  
22       Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Fellowship Program.

23       (g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

24                   (1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be  
25       appropriated to the Secretary of the Interior, for the

1 purpose of carrying out the Dr. Rita Hocog Inos  
2 Fellowship Program—

3 (A) \$1,000,000 for fiscal year 2010; and

4 (B) such sums as may be necessary for fis-  
5 cal years beginning after fiscal year 2010.

6 (2) ALLOCATION.—The Secretary shall reserve  
7 for each fiscal year, to fund activities under sub-  
8 section (c)(3), an amount that is not more than 10  
9 percent and not less than 5 percent of any amount  
10 appropriated for the purpose of carrying out the Dr.  
11 Rita Hocog Inos Fellowship Program, but in any  
12 case not less than \$50,000.

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